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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1951

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor H. J. PRICE, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor S. MAYCOCK, J.P.

Councillors : W. CALDWELL, T. CLORAN, L. H. COWLEY,
E. FRYER

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)
(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B.
and Buckingham R.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Area M.O.
for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks
Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.,

J. T. COX, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

14th July, 1952

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The total number of deaths during the year increased by 21 to a total of 104. Of these 54 were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system and 19 were due to cancer. This latter disease continues to take its dread toll in spite of advances in treatment and early diagnosis. Although there has been an increase in deaths compared with last year the Death Rate remains low and is less than that for the rest of the County and England and Wales. About 65% of deaths were aged 65 or over.

The Birth Rate shows a slight drop but compares favourably with that for the rest of the County and England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate which showed a most satisfactory low figure for 1950 is well up. There were actually 5 deaths in this group.

At Christmas-time we had a sudden explosive attack of Food Poisoning. This outbreak formed part of a wider epidemic which involved other districts in North Bucks and also areas in Northampton and Leicestershire. The disease was generally mild except in the older people and many escaped notification. In all 21 cases were notified in the Bletchley area. The causative agents were meat pies, the sale and manufacture of which was immediately stopped, after which no further cases were notified. There was, unfortunately, one death in the Bletchley area.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with Mr. R. L. Sherwood, Clerk of the Council, and Mr. J. F. Smithie, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, and their Staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS					1950	1951
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4462	4462
Population	...	...	...	...	10800	10927
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	3043	3197
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	...	£58217	£61359
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	24/-	26/8
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£242/11/5	£255/13/3

BIRTHS :

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	84	72
					Females	90	85
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	6	2
					Females	4	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population					...	17.0	14.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County		...	...	...		15.5	15.1
Birth rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales			...	...		15.8	15.5
Still Births	...	...	...	...	Males	Nil	1
					Females	4	1

DEATHS :					Males	41	60
					Females	42	44
Death rate per 1,000 Population					...	7.7	9.7
Death rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County					...	10.3	10.8
Death rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales					...	11.6	12.5
Maternal Mortality					...	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and							
Wales					...	0.86	0.79

INFANTILE MORTALITY :	1950	1951
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	5.4	31.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	24.8	24.6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	29.8	29.6
Deaths from Measles... ..	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1950			1951		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	0	0	0	1	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	8	3	11	9	10	19
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	6	9	15	9	10	19
Heart Disease	13	16	29	19	11	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3	1	4	5
Bronchitis	3	0	3	3	0	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Digestive Disease	0	1	1	3	1	4
Nephritis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	0	2	2
Violence	2	1	3	4	1	5
Suicide	0	0	0	3	0	3
All Other Causes	6	7	13	7	3	10
Total	41	42	83	60	44	104

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services have been administered by the County Council since July 5th, 1948. An Ambulance Station with two Ambulances and two Sitting Case Cars has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents. For cases of infectious disease the Ambulance from Aylesbury Isolation Hospital was used.

3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic has been held weekly at the Welfare Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work. The total number of children who attended during the year was 2,572.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This clinic which is administered by the British Red Cross Society continues to do very good work. Unfortunately shortage of staff has at times hampered its work. The Regional Hospital Board are taking it over when suitable premises can be procured.

HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area :

Infectious Diseases :

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Slade Hospital, Oxford

Tuberculosis :

Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium

General :

Northampton General Hospital
Bedford County Hospital
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
London Hospitals
Tindal House, Aylesbury

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 254 cases were assisted during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

(a) Quality

Bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that a high standard of purity has been maintained as the undermentioned results will show :

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Nature of Sample	Place	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.
i) Tap	Council Offices, Bletchley	Nil
ii) Tap	Church Green Rd., Bletchley	Nil
iii) Tap	Simpson Village	Nil
iv) Tap	Water Eaton Road	Nil
v) Borehole No. 2	Sandhouse	Nil
vi) Borehole No. 3	Sandhouse	Nil

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

(vii) Nature of sample — No. 3 Borehole.

Analysis							Parts per 100,0
Suspended Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dissolved Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.56
Chloride (as Cl ₂)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.6
Nitrate (as N ₂)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.3
Free CO ₂	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.8
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.54
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.14
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.68

Borehole No. 6 was successfully sunk during the year and is expected to come into operation early in 1952. Meanwhile, considerable quantities of water are still being purchased from the Bucks Water Board and Birchmoor Water and Sewerage Committee.

The bringing into service of water from Borehole No. 6 should enable the Council to meet its normal daily demands from its own resources for the first time since the collapse of the well in 1948, but this will provide little, if any, reserve and it will be necessary to provide yet a further borehole to give adequate cover for the town's supply.

Only six houses within the Urban District are not connected to the mains.

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewage Disposal Works has again been seriously overloaded and the replacement of the works by a new one is the most urgent requirement of the town.

The Old Bletchley Disposal Works has continued to work fairly satisfactorily, but further drainage to the Works will soon see the overloaded.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year some evidence came to light of flooding at Simpson and efforts have been made to get the responsible authority to meet this problem.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Practically 100 per cent of the houses in the district are now on the water carriage system.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection is now satisfactory on the basis of a weekly collection.

During the year the incinerator in North Street was closed down because it could deal with only half the refuse collected. All refuse was then tipped into the pit off North Street until becoming filled, tipping on land off Water Eaton Road was resorted to.

A new tipping ground will be required before the end of 1952.

F. SHOPS ACT, 1950 (Section 38)

Shops have been inspected for contraventions of the above Act.

G. MARKETS

The market is inspected weekly as a routine.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

Observations of chimneys have been taken and three written notices of excessive smoke emission sent to the persons responsible.

I. SWIMMING BATHS

A Public Swimming Bath has again become one of the most urgent amenities required in the town.

J. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Action has been taken in six cases for the eradication of bed bugs during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie)

INSPECTIONS MADE

Water	...	...	198	Drainage	...	...	275
Butchers	...	...	39	Buildings	...	...	360
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	82	Destructor and Tips	...	...	48
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	158	Smoke	...	...	17
Housing	...	...	320	Slaughterhouse	...	...	244
Sewerage	...	...	171	Ice Cream	...	...	78
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1990
Houses and Clothing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

SECTION D

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

1.	(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	119
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	290
	(ii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
	(iii)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	101
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers... ..	90
3.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
		Public Health Act :—	
	(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
	(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	11
4.		HOUSING ACT, 1936 : Part IV. OVERCROWDING	
	(i) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	—
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	—
	(ii)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(iii) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	—
	(iv)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
	(v)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

One hundred and fifty-nine new Council Houses have been completed in 1951.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **FOOD GENERALLY.** All food premises have been inspected both as a routine and on complaint under the general provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and the Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Act.

(b) **ICE CREAM.** Samples have been taken periodically and inspections of registered premises carried out. It has not been necessary to remove any premises from the register.

(c) **MILK.** There are ten persons carrying on the trade of distributor within the district.

(d) **MEAT.** All butchers' shops have been inspected periodically. Killing and inspection figures for the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses are as follows :—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1483	974	2412	65
Number inspected	1483	974	2412	65
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	3	8	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	324	2	35	9
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.188%	.513%	1.783%	13.846%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	7	2	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	150	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.586%	.205%	Nil	1.535%

SECTION F

FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION G

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

There were increases in the incidences of Measles and Whooping Cough and decreases in Pneumonia and Scarlet Fever. 7 cases of Dysentery were notified, all of very mild "Sonne" type.

The Food Poisoning outbreak brought in 21 notifications and 1 case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified.

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Sixteen new cases were notified during the year of which twelve were pulmonary and four non-pulmonary. Five cases were subsequently removed from the Register.

There was one death during the year.

3. CANCER

This disease continues to take its toll. There were nineteen deaths during the year.

4. NOTIFICATIONS

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	17
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	28
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	62
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	17
Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) (Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	21

